

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 9 and 17 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. Minor language informalities in claims 11 and 19 have also been eliminated. Accordingly, 1, 2, 4-7, 10-12, 14, 15 and 18-20, will remain pending in the present application. Each of the above noted claims has been indicated to be allowable.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner noted that the application is in condition of allowance except the presence of claim 9 and 17 that were not elected in the reply filed on August 14, 2006. These claims have previously being withdrawn from consideration. In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner gave Applicant one-month within which to cancel the noted claims or take other such appropriate action.

In response to the Examiner's action, by the present response Applicant have cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter the non-elected claims 9 and 17. Thus, only allowable claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-12, 14, 15 and 18-20, remain pending. Accordingly, since all the claims pending in the present application have been indicated to be allowable, Applicant respectfully request that the present application be passed to issue.

Applicant further notes the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. In this regard, Applicant notes the Examiner indicated reasons, but submits that each of the claims in the present application recites a particular combination of features and that the basis for patentability is also based on the totality of the features recited therein. Moreover, Applicant submits that the incorporation of the previously indicated allowable subject matter in the previous response was made without any acquiescence in the propriety of the Examiner rejection of the independent claims. The incorporation of allowable social matter was merely made to expedite the passage of the present application to issue.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that the outstanding Official Action having been responded to and that the all the remaining claims in the application having been indicated to be allowable, that the Examiner promptly pass the present application to issue.

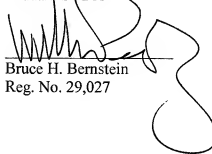
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer the two non-elected claims that had previously been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, all the claims remaining in the present application are allowable and Applicant respectfully request passage of the present application to issue in due course.

The amendments to the claims which have been made in this response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Tadaaki SUDA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce H. Bernstein', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'B' and 'S'.

Bruce H. Bernstein
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